



MG Jack Gardner departs, BG Keen in as USARSO turns a new page in its proud history

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US Army South Media
Relations

(Fort Sam Houston, TX) An overcast, gusty October afternoon saw the tides change for US Army South as one general passed the colors to another, the later assuming command of the major subordinate Army command.

On Oct 28, 2005 Maj. Gen. Jack D. Gardner relinquished command of USARSO to incoming commander Brig. Gen. Ken Keen on the parade grounds of the Old Brooke Army Medical Center on Fort Sam Houston.

"This command has the responsibility of over 26 million square miles including Central, South America and the Caribbean," said host Commander Gen. Dan K. McNeill, commanding general of US Forces Command. There

can be no doubt that the region is vital not only in terms of

joined Command Sgt. Major Wood in passing the USARSO

Fort Carson Colorado and Deputy Commander (Central) for 5th Army.

Maj. Gen Gardner relinquishes command after two years with USARSO and will assume command of Task Force 134 in Iraq.

"One of the lessons I have learned while commander of USARSO is the future of our country and Central, South America and the Caribbean are intricately linked and we will succeed, or fail together," said Gardner.

"For the past two years, Maj. Gen. Gardner has welcomed the responsibility for meeting the challenges and he has succeeded in superb fashion," said McNeill. "He has masterfully orchestrated Army National Guard, Reserve and Active component participation in support of US SOUTHCOM's theater engagement plan."

"I would like to thank everyone in USARSO and best wishes as you continue to work in a region that's central to the future of the United States," said Gardner.

US Army South, as the Army component of US Southern Command, conducts security cooperation activities, executes military operations, and supports the War on Terrorism, in order to promote democratic values and prosperity throughout the region, enhance regional stability, and deter and defeat transnational threats to the US. On order, USARSO executes contingency operations in support of US Southern Command.



In a time honored tradition, Brig. Gen. P.K. Keen passes the USARSO colors back to USARSO Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Wood, officially taking command of US Army South during the USARSO official change of command ceremony Oct. 28 on Fort Sam Houston, TX.

national security but in terms of global importance." McNeill

colors between the incoming and outgoing commanders. Following the official ceremony, Keen officially assumed command of US Army South.

"My wife Mary Ellen and I are truly blessed and fortunate to be apart of the USARSO team and we are excited to be here," said Keen. "You have my 100 percent commitment in executing our mission, taking care of our soldiers, civilians and families."

"Brig. Gen Keen steps up today assuming command and brings with him not only a wealth of command experience, but also a unique set of qualifications," said McNeill. Keen most recently served as the Assistant Division Commander (Maneuver) for the 7th Infantry Division (Light),

189th MP CO get's new Commander



On 21 September, 2005, CPT Eric DeForest took Command of the 189th MP Company from Capt. Elizabeth Ryser. The 189th MP Company is part of the 525th MP Bn Commanded by Lt. Col. Robert Burk.

Upcoming Observances – Equal Opportunity

National Native American Indian Heritage Month, Nov 05

Native American Indian Pow Wow, 12 Nov 05, All Day, Hacienda on FSH, TX

Theme: “Honoring Heritage: Strengthening Our Nation’s Spirit.”

“November marks the observance of National American Indian Heritage Month. This observance became nationally recognized in 1990 with the signing of a



accomplishments of America’s early inhabitants and their inimitable role in the shaping our nation’s history. National observance ceremonies provide the opportunity to commit

joint Congressional resolution. Similar proclamations have been issued each year. Activities during the month will be established to recognize the culture, and

ourselves anew to fulfilling the obligation to promote equality for all Americans.

Ongoing Training:

Equal Opportunity Representative Course (EORC), 24 Oct – 4 Nov 05

Upcoming Training:

Equal Opportunity Program Overview/POSH Training (DET 2), 29 Oct 05, SBCR, 1500-1550

SFC Ford

USARSO Equal Opportunity Advisor

Office: 210-295-6499

(DSN: 421)

Cell: 210-573-4894

Location: Bldg #1000, 6th floor, Room #630

USARSO Community News Publication Dates

Submit by date

2 December 2005

Publication date

9 December 2005



Please submit information you would like to have included in the USARSO Newsletter to kevin.sing@sanhoustonarmy.mil or sarah.danney@sanhoustonarmy.mil

Spouses To Teachers Educating America’s Youth

Participating States:

California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Texas, Virginia, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina

is \$600 per person. There is a STT web site, which provides information and links useful for those spouses interested in a teaching career.

Purpose: Spouses to Teachers (STT) is proudly represented in 14 states. The program is designed to assess the needs of spouses relative to becoming a teacher. The program provides support to spouses of active duty military and Selected Reserves in their pursuit of K-12 teaching positions in America’s schools. The program will provide various information and services (listed below) related to becoming a teacher. Limited funding will be provided to eligible spouses to reimburse the cost of tests required for state teacher licensure/certification. Maximum available financial assistance

Eligibility:

- Spouses of active duty personnel
- Spouses of members of Selected Reserve and National Guard currently serving on active duty
- Spouses of members of Individual Ready Reserve currently serving on active duty

Primary Audience:

- Spouses with baccalaureate degree or higher
- Spouses with a teacher certification in one state and are applying for

certification in another state

- Spouses with less than a baccalaureate degree

Services Provided:

- Information regarding state certification requirements
- Counseling and guidance on certification options
- Application assistance for transferring teacher certification from one state to another
- Financial assistance to help meet expenses for examinations required for teacher certification
- Financial Aid resource assistance
- State employment guidance

Procedures:

- State registration required to apply for stipend of up to \$600 for state teacher certification exams
- State Spouses to Teachers Office prepares vouchers approving the test(s) and amount authorized to be reimbursed
- Individuals forwards the voucher to DANTES/Spouses to Teachers with proof of payment and voided personal check
- DANTES/STT will process approved vouchers for payment within 30 - 45 days of receipt

Spouses to Teachers contact information is available on the web site: www.SpousestoTeachers.com

USARSO "Rough Rider's" fighting for 1st Place!

USARSO finished 3rd in the regular season with a record of 6 wins and 4 losses. The team lost three games by one run in come from behind efforts, but the most important thing about those losses is staying together and trying to come back to win even coming up short. Hopefully USARSO will have some luck with them in the playoffs as these are there results of the first two rounds and they play in the 3rd round with 264th Academy, one of the best teams in the league..



Bottom row left to right: SGT Lafosse, SFC Holden, 1SG Gonzalez, SSG Rios, SSG Santiago, Sgt Larsen Not pictured: (Mr. A. Williams and SFC J. Walker) Back row left to right: Coach Mr. Rodriguez, SSG Thomas, SGM Lopez, MSG Carlton, Mr. J. Rodriguez, Mr. Venner, Mr. Bozeman, Cpt. Watson, Mr. Youn

1st round of the playoff

USARSO won: With an explosive offense.

USARSO 18

D BAMC 3

2nd round of the playoff

USARSO won: In a outstanding defense game where there big

guns did not hit but with outstanding plays from there infield.

USARSO 3

5th Army 1

3rd round: 2 NOV 05

Location: Leadership Field

Time: 1900

USARSO vs 264th

Academy

Designate Smoking Area

It is no mystery where the designated smoking area is. Those who have shifted their own area closer and closer to the back door need to re-focus and walk the extra 100 feet or so back to the designated area. As it is now, soldiers, who may or may not be smokers will have to go out and clean up the mess of a few who just can't seem to hit the butt can. It would really be a waste of a soldiers time to have to put a guard out back to ensure that people smoke only in the designated area so please use a little initiative and move to where the authorized area is. Appreciate your consideration for others on this issue. Since the above note has been sent out, I have received numerous responses from soldiers and civilians in USARSO thanking me. They stated that they have had to walk through clouds of smoke each morning in order to get into the building. This negatively effected their mood at the start of the day as well caused their cloths to smell like smoke. Those who smoke may not be able to relate to this but it is important that you understand how your actions effect the work day of your co-workers. Thank you to all who have moved back to the designated area. We need everyone to be an enforcer of this. If you come across someone smoking within 50 feet of any access door, kindly remind them that DOD regulations require smokers to maintain that distance in consideration of others.

CSM Wood

Always buckle up... it's the law!

Texas law requires every person sitting in the front seat of a vehicle to wear a safety belt. The law also states that all children under 17 years old must be secured with a safety belt, or in a child safety seat, whether they are sitting in the front, or the back seat. A child less than four years old, or less than 36 inches tall, must be secured in a child safety seat. Drivers can be stopped and ticketed for a safety belt violation if they, or any of their passengers under 17 years old, are not buckled up or properly restrained. A safety belt violation can result in a fine of \$100 to \$200, or mandatory attendance at a traffic safety education class dealing with child safety seats and safety belts. Unrestrained drivers - and passengers 15 and over who are not wearing safety belts in the front seat - can be ticketed directly. Fines range from \$25 to \$50.

USARSO Outdoors

Roger Astin II*US Army South G3 TACEX*

Roger Astin II (son of Roger Astin, G3 TACEX) harvested his first ever deer on the "Youth Only" hunt last weekend and can't wait to accompany his dad on more hunts. When the family lived in Panama Roger frequently went with his father on fishing trips and currently bugging him that it's time to make another trip there for big peacock bass and snook!



South Texas is famous for its whitetail deer hunting. So much so, that deer

hunting has now replaced cattle as the number #1 income producer for Texas ranchers. Each year the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department establishes several "Youth Only" hunts when only youth, 16-years of age and younger, are permitted to hunt. The Texas youth program is designed to help introduce young hunters to the tradition and sport of hunting and raise their awareness of the role of hunting in proper game management. Once almost considered extinct in some areas, the whitetail deer is now

North America's most populous large mammal with a population ranging between 8 and 15 million animals. The

general deer season for most of Texas opens 5 November.

A number of USARSO personnel are taking advantage of the hunting opportunities available in the local area. Several group hunts have already been conducted for feral hogs. South Texas also has one of the largest feral hog populations in the nation. These wild pigs are not considered a game animal, therefore hunting for them is available all year round and gives the hunter the opportunity to put some pork in the freezer instead of venison.

Note: All hunters in Texas born on or after Sep 2, 1971 are required to take a State Hunter Safety Course. These courses are available through Outdoor Recreation at Camp Bullis. Be sure to check the hunting proclamation for details regarding seasons, bag limits and special regulations.



USARSO Command Group picture taken in honor of MG Jack Gardner's departure on 28 October 2005.

IN AND AROUND TEXAS

[South Texas Maize](#)

Date: Sep 24-Nov27

City: [Hondo](#)

Includes a 7-acre maze, barrel train, mini-mazes, pumpkins, children's play area and more. East of the Hwy. 173/Hwy. 90 overpass. E-mail: natural@7aranch.com

[Greek Festival](#)

Date: Nov 4-6

City: [Galveston](#)

Food, music, dance, and culture of Greece. Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church Community Center.

[Wurstfest](#)

Date: Nov 4-13

City: [New Braunfels](#)

This 10-day celebration is rich in German culture and full of Texas fun. Families come to sample tasty sausage and strudel, pretzels and potato pancakes, and others come to polka and waltz to great oompah music. Wurstfest Grounds, inside of Landa Park. E-mail: info@wurstfest.com

[Totally Tejas](#)

Date: Nov 6

Sample the finest foods of Texas — from briny Gulf seafood to fresh farm cheeses — while exploring craft-made beers and wines from around the world. Foods from a globe-trotting array of San Antonio restaurants provoke the palate, toe-tapping rhythms keep feet busy and authors autograph the latest cookbook crop. Hours are 2 to 6 p.m. Rio Cibolo Ranch. E-mail: info@nwwff.org

[Sensational Seafood](#)

Date: Nov 8

City: [Corpus Christi](#)

Taste mouth-watering Gulf of Mexico delicacies as prepared by local chefs. Hours are 7 to 9 p.m. Aquarium lobby. E-mail: members@txstateaq.org

[Nutcracker Market](#)

Date: Nov 10-13

City: [Houston](#) Features holiday decorations, food, clothing, jewelry and furniture. Reliant Park.

[Santa's Ranch Drive Through Christmas Light Park](#)

Date: Nov 11-Jan1

City: [San Marcos](#)

Tour nearly a mile of more than 100 holiday scenes illuminated by over one million lights. 9561 I-35 N, just south of the Tanger Outlet Mall.

[Veterans Day](#)

Date: Nov 11

City: [Fredericksburg](#)

Offers a patriotic address, recognition of all veterans from all wars and conflicts, joint color guard, music and 21-gun salute. Program begins at 11 a.m. Admiral Nimitz State Historic Site - National Museum of the Pacific War

[Mistletoe Holiday Gift Market](#)

Date: Nov 12

City: [Wimberley](#) Call for information.

[Harvestfest](#)

Date: Nov 15

City: [Canyon Lake](#)

Hours are 6 to 9 p.m. GVTC Auditorium, 36101 FM 3159.

[Rotary Shrimp Fest](#)

Date: Nov 17

City: [Seguin](#)

Raises funds for local educational charities. Seguin-Guadalupe County Coliseum.

[Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting](#)

Date: Nov 18

City: [New Braunfels](#)

Festive event announces the arrival of Santa, parade, food, entertainment and Santa pictures. Courthouse and Plaza area lighting are the highlight of the night. Begins at 6:30 p.m. Downtown Plaza.

[Weihnachtsmarkt](#)

Date: Nov 18-20

City: [New Braunfels](#)

Kicks off the holiday season. Patterned after the open-air markets found in Germany, this event has gifts, antiques, children's items, decorations and more from 50 merchants from all over Texas and beyond. New Braunfels Civic Center, 390 S. Seguin Ave.

[Seaside Treasure Festival](#)

Date: Nov 19

City: [Galveston](#)

Features more than 100 arts & crafts vendors, a gourmet lunch in the Seaside Cafe, silent auction, entertainment and more. Proceeds support mission and outreach work in the Galveston area. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Moody Memorial First United Methodist Church, 2803 53rd St. at Avenue U. E-mail: stf@moody.org

Harvest Fest**Date:** Nov 19**City:** [Bandera](#)

Celebrates Bandera's diverse culture and heritage. Features a wide variety of ethnic food and entertainment. Margaret Alkelk Boys & Girls Club. E-mail: growthr@texas.net

Night Parade & Downtown Lighting**Date:** Nov 19**City:** [Hondo](#) Call for information**Holiday Season Kickoff****Date:** Nov 19**City:** [Kerrville](#) Includes a lighted parade**Feria de Santa Cecilia****Date:** Nov 25-27**City:** [San Antonio](#)

Features Mariachi music and the holiday lighting of Market Square. E-mail: jessemo@sanantonio.com

Holiday River Parade**Date:** Nov 25**City:** [San Antonio](#)

Spectacular parade features decorated, illuminated floats with celebrities, bands and lavishly costumed participants. Begins at 7 p.m. Along the River Walk.

A Very Berry Holiday Gift Show**Date:** Nov 25-Dec31**City:** [New Braunfels](#) New Braunfels Art League Gallery, 239 W. San Antonio.**Island Assault: 1944****Date:** Nov 25-26**City:** [Fredericksburg](#) The Nimitz Museum's living history detachment demonstrates weapons and tactics of the Pacific War. Begins at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. Admiral Nimitz Museum Pacific

Combat Zone. For more information, call ext. 228. E-mail: jeff.hunt@tpwd.state.tx.us

Cowboy Christmas at Pioneer Town**Date:** Nov 25-Jan5**City:** [Wimberley](#) Enjoy an old-time Hill Country Christmas with decorations, refreshments and music.**Hill Country Regional Lighting Trail****Date:** Nov 25-Jan1**City:** [Fredericksburg](#) Boerne, Bulverde, Burnet, Dripping Springs, Fredericksburg, Goldthwaite, Johnson City, Llano, Marble Falls, New Braunfels, Round Mountain and Wimberley hold special events, displays, parades and other activities. Brochures are available. E-mail: creative@ktx.com**Bullockville Lighting Display****Date:** Nov 25-Jan1**City:** [Wimberley](#) Offers a charming Christmas village lighting display. RR 2325 at Bullockville. E-mail: chamber@wimberley-tx.com**Christmas at Becker Vineyards****Date:** Nov 25-27**City:** [Stonewall](#) Call or visit Web site for information.**Holiday Boat Caroling****Date:** Nov 26-Dec18**City:** [San Antonio](#) Hours are 6:15 to 9:15 p.m. Along the River Walk**Chuy's Christmas Parade****Date:** Nov 26**City:** [Austin](#) A procession of giant balloons, marching bands, vintage cars, celebrities and floats kick off the holiday season. Congress Avenue.**Christmas in Comfort****Date:** Nov 26**City:** [Comfort](#)

Features more than 100 arts & crafts booths in the Historic District. Includes food court, Santa visit, entertainment and music all day. Lighted night parade occurs at dark

Christmas Showcase of Arts & Crafts**Date:** Nov 26-27**City:** [New Braunfels](#) Features handmade arts & crafts by more than 100 crafters. Opens at 10 a.m. New Braunfels Civic Center.**Country Christmas Ball****Date:** Nov 26**City:** [Bandera](#) Kick off the holiday season with an event reminiscent of an old-fashioned barn dance. Farm Country Club. E-mail: farmcc@indian-creek.net**"Rockin' Christmas Party"****Date:** Dec 1-Jan1**City:** [Austin](#) The award-winning cast shakes, rattles and rolls down Santa Claus Lane with songs and dance guaranteed to lift your spirits. Zachary Scott Theatre.**Dickens Christmas Celebration & Christmas Along the Corridor****Date:** Dec 1-3 Entertainment includes Cordsmen, Sweet Adelines, puppets, violinist and bagpiper, Celtic music, Christmas carols and performance of "Bah Humbug." Enjoy carriage rides through the village and forest and great food. Hours are 6 to 10 p.m. Welcomes Pony Express Courier on Dec. 3. Bracken Village.**Wassailfest****Date:** Dec 1**City:** [New Braunfels](#) Participating downtown merchants and businesses open their doors to offer attendees their special blend of wassail. Musical groups and choirs entertain

IN AND AROUND TEXAS CONTINUED...

throughout the historic district. Hours are 6 to 9 p.m. Downtown New Braunfels, Main Plaza. For more information, call ext. 252 or 236.

18th Annual Las Posadas Procession & Fiesta

Date: Dec 2

City: [San Antonio](#) Re-enacts Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and search for lodging on the eve of Jesus' birth. Includes caroling, prayers and a candle-lit procession to various locations on the Our Lady of the Lake University campus. Procession begins at McCullough Hall and concludes in Chapel Auditorium with a fiesta. The fiesta includes a mariachi performance, folklorico dancers, matachines from local parishes, pinatas, hot chocolate, tamales, pan dulce and bunuelos. Begins at 6 p.m. in front of McCullough Hall. For more information, call ext. 2272. E-mail: larm@lake.ollusa.edu

Holiday Wine Trail

Date: Dec 2-4, 9-11

City: [Fredericksburg](#) Participating wineries have different activities, such as wine tasting, appetizers and special food pairings, barrel tasting, art shows and a special release for new wines. Call for a map of participating wineries.

15th Annual Wild Ideas: The Shopping Event

Date: Dec 2-4

City: [Austin](#) Hours are 9 a.m. to 5:30

Christmas Parade

Date: Dec 2

City: [Fredericksburg](#) Starts at the corner of South Adams and East Main, goes down to Washington and

returns back down Main to West Edison Street. On Main Street. E-mail: evp@fbgtx.org

Eighth Annual Weihnachten

Date: Dec 2-4

City: [Fredericksburg](#) Weekend begins with a Christmas parade at 6:30 p.m. Friday down Main Street. Free family-oriented Christmas entertainment is provided by the Fredericksburg Theater Company throughout the weekend. Includes a Christmas Tree Forest, a gingerbread house contest, expanded children's activity area, authentic homemade German foods, a shopping market, lighted holiday figurines displays and more. Hours are 4 to 10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. Marktplatz.

Christmas at the Mansion

Date: Dec 2-3

City: [Brenham](#) Heritage Bells bring the 1869 Giddings Stone Mansion alive. Includes candlelight, entertainment, gingerbread houses and more. Giddings Stone Mansion.

11th Annual Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza

Date: Dec 2-4

City: [San Antonio](#) Features several days of mariachi music events, including mariachi group and vocal competitions and mariachi workshops. The Extravaganza culminates in a grand concert on Dec. 3 featuring Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan, known throughout the national and international music scene as "the best mariachi in the world." New this year is Serenata en el Rio where different mariachi groups showcase their performances at the Rivercenter Lagoon. San Antonio Municipal Auditorium.

Town Lighting

Date: Dec 3

City: [Gruene](#) Enjoy the town lighting at 6 p.m. when Cowboy Kringle rides into town on horseback. Ring in the season with music by the Texas State University Student Brass Quintet.

Oma's Christmas Fair

Date: Dec 3-4

City: [Boerne](#) Features three buildings of crafts, art, and goodies. Kendall County Fairgrounds, Hwy. 46 E.

Kriskindlmarkt

Date: Dec 3

City: [San Antonio](#) Beethoven Hall and Garden.

Candlelight Celebration

Date: Dec 3

City: [San Antonio](#) Children's Chorus of San Antonio's elite choirs, Chamber Choir and Youth Chorale, present an evening of seasonal choral works for treble, mixed and men's choirs. Program highlights include excerpts from Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols and unique settings of seasonal favorites. Alamo Heights United Methodist Church. E-mail: office@childrenschorussa.org

Kinderfest

Date: Dec 3

City: [Fredericksburg](#) This is a children's German/Texas-themed party with food, games, songs, storytelling and a visit from St. Nick. Children should bring a stocking, which will be returned filled with goodies when the party is over. Pioneer Museum, 309 W. Main St.